

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 06416 221424Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

SECSTATE WASHDC 6925

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NS, BR

SUBJ: VISIT OF SURINAMESE PRIME MINISTER HENCK ARRON TO BRAZIL

REFS: PARAMARIBO 0566 PARAMARIBO 0602 (NOTAL)

1. THE VISIT OF SURINAM'S PRIME MINISTER WAS WELL RECEIVED IN BRAZIL. TALKS DURING VISIT WERE CORDIAL AND BRAZILIAN FONMIN REFERRED PUBLICLY TO SURINAM'S ROLE OF PROVIDING "AN EQUILIBRIUM IN THE AREA." PRESS PLAY IN BRAZIL WAS GOOD, WITH REFERENCES TO THE POSSIBLE ROLE BRAZIL COULD PLAY IN SURINAM'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

2. EMBOFFS SPOKE WITH GOB FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR SURINAM. HE STATED THAT FROM GOB PERSPECTIVE THE VISIT WENT VERY WELL. SOURCE SAID THAT GOB-GOS HAVE VERY GOOD RELATIONS AND GOB HOPES THESE WILL CONTINUE. SOURCE WAS VAGUE AND NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC CONCERNING BOTH THE POSSIBILITIES OF INCREASED TRADE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND SOME FORM OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 06416 221424Z

ASSISTANCE TO SURINAM. HE SAID THAT CURRENT BRAZIL-SURINAM

TRADE FIGURES ARE NOT HIGH, AND, SO FAR AS FOREIGN MINISTRY CAN TELL, THERE SEEM TO BE FEW PROSPECTS FOR INCREASING TRADE. HE POINTED OUT THAT BEFORE LONG BRAZIL WILL BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN BAUXITE THUS ELIMINATING ONE POSSIBILITY. WITH RESPECT TO ASSISTANCE, SOURCE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY IS LOOKING HARD AT THE QUESTION WITHOUT MUCH PROSPECT OF COMING UP WITH ANYTHING DRAMATIC. THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES, NOW UNDER STUDY, OF HELPING SURINAMESE WITH JUNGLE ROAD CONSTRUCTION OR HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS. HE SAID THAT SURINAM AND BRAZIL DO NOT HAVE BORDER PROBLEMS AND EMPHASIZED THE SURINAM'S SMALL SIZE AND POPULATION MAKE IT UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT TOO MUCH OF BRAZIL.

3. DCM SPOKE WITH SURINAM'S AMBASSADOR SEWRAJSING WHO WAS SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, ESPECIALLY CONCERNING POSSIBILITIES FOR ASSISTANCE. HE SAID NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED DURING ARRON'S VISIT ON INVESTMENT PROJECTS BECAUSE SURINAM WISHES TO MAINTAIN ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION TO NEGOTIATE THE BEST POSSIBLE DEAL. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT SURINAM WISHES NOT ONLY TO ACHIEVE GREATER BALANCE WITH ITS TRADE WITH BRAZIL BUT DIVERSIFICATION. HE HOPES THAT ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAN BE LINKED WITH THAT OF BRAZIL'S NORTH. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE POSSIBILITY OF MAJOR BRAZILIAN PROJECTS IN MINERALS EXPLOITATION WHICH MIGHT INVOLVE THE CREATION OF INFRA-STRUCTURE, INCLUDING TRANSPORTATION AND HYDROELECTRIC POWER, FROM WHICH SURINAM COULD BENEFIT.

4. CONCERNING AGREEMENTS SIGNED ON CULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, AMBASSADOR SAID THE PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY UNDER BOTH AGREEMENTS WOULD BE THE EXCHANGE OF PROFESSORS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS. AMBASSADOR DENIED PRESS CLAIMS THAT SURINAM'S BORDER PROBLEMS WITH GUYANA WERE DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT. THE EXACT DEMARCATION OF SURINAM'S BORDER WITH BRAZIL WAS DISCUSSED, HOWEVER, AND CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT BORDER DEMARCATION COMMISSION. IT WAS DECIDED NOT TO TAKE SUCH A STEP DURING ARRON'S VISIT TO AVOID GIVING PRESS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEIZE ON THIS AS AN INDICATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BRASIL 06416 221424Z

BORDER PROBLEMS BETWEEN SURINAM AND BRAZIL--WHICH, IN FACT DO NOT EXIST. APPARENTLY SHRIMP AGREEMENT WITH SURINAM WAS NOT DISCUSSED. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT SINCE MAY 1975 WHEN, AT HIS INSISTENCE, GOS TOOK STEPS TO INSURE STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS, THERE HAS BEEN NO TROUBLE WITH BRAZILIAN SEIZURES OF SURINAMESE VESSELS. CRIMMINS

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